



Department Updates

October 2022

Register of Deeds

Margo Katterhagen, Register of Deeds

Got your REAL ID yet??

The final deadline is May 3, 2023.

REAL ID compliant cards will have one of the following markings on the upper top portion of the card:



If the card does not have one of these markings, it is not REAL ID compliant and won't be accepted as proof of identity in order to board commercial aircrafts and Federal buildings.

How do you get a REAL ID?

Visit your state's driver's licensing agency website to find out exactly what documentation is required to obtain a REAL ID and then come see us to purchase a certified copy of your Wisconsin birth and marriage certificates!

Real estate is slowing down but still moving. Fewer but more expensive properties are changing hands. We recorded 693 documents in Sept 2022 compared to 988 docs in Sept 2021. However we collected over \$160,000+ in fees this Sept compared to \$130,000+ in fees last Sept. The higher the priced property, the higher the fees.

We continue to work on our back indexing project along with other projects that will help us be more efficient in our daily work flow.

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Finance

Jodi Busch Finance Director

Summer has flown by in the Finance Department. We worked with CliftonlarsenAllen to finalize the 2021 audit, which was submitted to the State of WI – Dept of Administration on July 31st. We also worked with Diversified Services Network, who was onsite for two days conducting the Indirect Cost Allocation Study. This plan was finalized in late July.

Ongoing projects in Finance over the summer included the handling of the accounts payable and the general accounting for the new Highway Facility, as well as the general accounting for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Barron County received the second tranche of ARPA dollars in early June. To date, several ARPA projects are in the works ranging from the planning stages all the way to completion.

July also brought the start of the annual budget process. Budget Worksheets were distributed to departments the week of July 11th and were due back to Finance on August 12th. A big thank you to all of the departments for submitting by the deadline! Compilation of the first draft of the county-wide budget has been occurring over the last few weeks. Committee meetings are well underway to review and approve the departmental budgets. The first view of the budget as a whole will be in September at the Executive and County Board meetings.

Because some budget information is still outstanding, September continues to be a busy month making adjustments and tweaks before the October Executive, when the Committee will give a recommendation to the County Board. Based on that recommendation, a Budget Publication will be developed and published in all County newspapers. A Public Hearing will be held on November 7th, with the County Board approving the budget in early November.

After approval, the Finance Director will finalize the budget, file the appropriate reports with the municipalities and the State, and setup the budget in the financial software. About the time this process is completed, the auditors will be here again as they start the 2022 pre-audit in December.

All of us in the Finance Department wish you a healthy, happy and colorful fall season.

Veterans Service Officer

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

PACT Act

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. I am expecting a sharp increase in veterans seeking benefits. Please let others know about the changes but highly encourage them to call to schedule an appointment with us. I foresee our calendars filling up fast after the first of the year.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War and post-9/11 eras.
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn puts, Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act related benefits.